

April Fool's Day

Information & Worksheets



April Fool's Day



No one knows how April Fool's Day or All Fool's Day began. Some feel that it may have been a celebration of the spring equinox which takes place on March 24th. On this day, night and day are the same length. Perhaps it may have marked the beginning of the old New Year when this fell at the end of March.

At one time, many years ago, there was an event called the "Feast of Fools". During this feast the people often switched roles. For example, a slave could become an emperor for a day or a peasant could become a nobleman.

In Britain, an old tradition would also take place on this day. People would have a chance to make fun of their rulers. The king or queen would make a member of their country the "Lord of Misrule". The Lord of Misrule had to make sure that everyone at court broke the normal rules of behaviour during the celebration.

The Hindu festival of Holi falls about the same time as April Fool's Day. During this festival many mischievous tricks and events take place.

For 400 years April Fool's Day has been remembered and celebrated in France. French children try to pin a "poisson d'Avril" onto someone's back and then they laugh at the April Fish.

In Canada and the United States, April Fool's Day is celebrated by playing practical jokes such as sending people on silly errands, making people look up, setting someone's alarm to ring at the wrong time and switching the salt and sugar.

On April Fool's Day jokes must be played before noon or the joker is considered a fool as this old English rhyme explains.

April Fool's gone past
You're the biggest fool at last
When April Fool comes again
You'll be the biggest fool then.



GRADES 4-6

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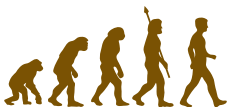
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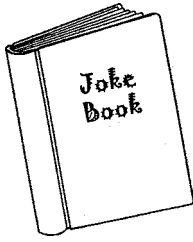
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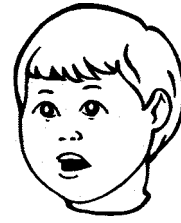
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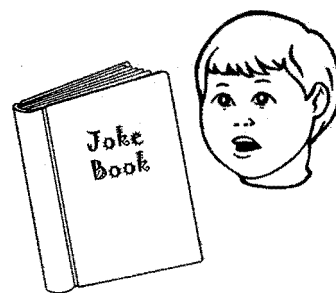
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Read the information on "April Fool's Day" or "All Fool's Day" to find out how this day may have originated.

Complete the following activities.

1. April Fool's Day is celebrated with jokes and tricks played on families and friends. Make up some jokes or tricks that you might use. Remember to keep them harmless and humorous.

2. In some countries people exchange roles for a day on April Fool's Day. Pretend that you have exchanged roles with the leader of your country or the mayor of your city or town. Tell how you would spend the day.

3. The Lord of Misrule was to make people break rules that they wouldn't dare to break at court on any other day. What rules do you think they would break? Record them in a list.
